

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, February 28. 1708.

AND now, Gentlemen, I hope, you are all convinc'd of the Justice of these abominable Reflections, that have been made upon the Affair of the Deficiency of the Troops in Spain; and those, who have been so loud upon that Head, may see, whose Drudgery they are doing, and whose Interest they support by it.

Could these railing People but have done the QUEEN and the Agents in that Business so much Justice, as to have waited, till a true Account had been taken, and the thing rightly examin'd into, they would have seen now, that there had been no Occasion for so much Passion, as they have dispens'd upon this Subject; that there have been no Traytors, no Thieves of the Nations Treasure, no cheating the Publick, no taking Money for 20000 Men, and supplying but 8000; no putting the Money in

their Pockets, that should have carry'd on the War with Spain— The Representatives need not be spoken to, to enquire into the Things, and to know why People are not punish'd, &c.

Upon the whole you have,
First, Her Majesty making a strict Scrutiny and Examination into it for her own Satisfaction, and for her Subjects Satisfaction also.

Secondly, You have her Majesty assuring you, that on this Examination it appears that no Care has been wanting.

Thirdly, You have the Matter clearly and distinctly stated to convince the world Enemy, and to shew every Matter of Fact to the World, and make you all Judges, whether the QUEEN passes a right Judgment or no.

Fourthly,

Fourthly, The Parliament, on a long and exact considering the Particulars, as her Majesty has laid them down (*Vote*) that the Deficiency at the Battle of *Almanza* was not occasion'd by Neglect, &c.

Fifthly, The whole House of Commons thanking the QUEEN for giving them such a condescending Instance of her Majesty's Desire to give every thing its due Examination, and satisfying her Subjects by laying the said Account so fully and so exactly before them.

And what shall we say now to those rash People, who without Respect to Justice or Reason, have spread over the whole Nation their ill-natur'd Reproaches and Reflections on the publick Management in this Case?

I'll tell you what I will say, and this I hope, they will allow to be modest; They ought, in the Sence of the Rashness and injurious Heat of their acting, to make a publick Acknowledgement of their being to blame, and ask Pardon of her Majesty and the whole Nation; of the first, for abusing her Royal Goodness, in judging and passing Sentence, even while her Majesty was examining the Affair, in order to her Subjects Satisfaction—And of the Nation, for suggesting such severe Things against those in Trust, while they were faithfully serving them, and thereby irritating them against their best Friends and truest Servants.

Nor am I out of Hopes, they will do this; I am sure, they that meant well, will do it; it can be no Dishonour for an honest Man to acknowledge a Mistake, *Humanum est errare*, we all see by borrow'd Light, and at best are but short-sighted Creatures; if by my Mis-information or Mis-judging I wrong any Man, GOD forbid, I should not acknowledge my Mistake, and no Man shall be forwarder than I to do it in any Case, in which it shall appear I have so err'd—And he that refuses to do thus, tells the whole World his Mistake was wilful, and all the Mischiefs he has done, design'd.

If therefore any of these Writers, *I single out none*, are sensible they have injur'd her Majesty, and impos'd upon the People in urging their Discontents at this Matter

of the *Spanish* Deficiency, as a Mismanagement; They, whose Design was purely to have Knavery detected, and the Nation not be wrong'd, will upon this Discovery of their Mistake acknowledge it, and make Reparation; and on their doing so, all good Men will love, value and honour them, as Men, whose Designs are singly bent to the publick Interest, and that would not willingly act against them——As to my poor Mice in their Praise, such Honesty shall never want it, and he must have no Sence of Merit that should refrain it.

And to prompt them to this, let them but consider the Time between the Provision made by Parliament for the Troops mentioned, and the Time of the Battle of *Almanza*, and how it was possible, the Government could either send the Troops which were to be furnished thither, or recruit those which were there, and they will see, they had no Reason for the Reflections made, since the Parliament gave Money for the Troops but in Feb. 1704, and the Battle of *Almanza* happen'd on April 14 the same Year; and to raise Troops or Recruits, ship them for *Spain*, and have them arrive there, and all in two Months, is an Expedition not known in these Ages of the World, and which considering Men could have been was not to be expected; nay, her Majesty could hardly have an Account from *Spain*, what Reduction of the Troops in *Spain* had happen'd, or how many Recruits were wanted; much less could it be reasonable to expect, they should be there at the Action.

Demonstrations therefore prove the injurious Rashness of this common Censure, and the QUEEN having so far laid it before the whole Nation for our Satisfaction, *they that have err'd here*, ought to acknowledge their Mistake, and endeavour to undeceive the People, they had too hastily prejudic'd in this Matter; and I hope, they that mean honestly, as I say above, will not think it below them to do so much Justice.

And to speak a Word or two in general to those, who point their Reflections at Persons in this Matter, I know nothing of Persons in particular on either side; the Guilty,

ty, I hope, will never be defended, her Majesty protects none, and has on all Occasions shew'd her Justice, when right Information has been obtain'd to fix the Guilt: But to come to the General, that these Gentlemen may see, whose Work they are doing.

Birk-r the Administration is in the Hands of a right Party, or it is not— If it is not, let us see what the Objections are; and who is the Party you would have in, and that will discover the Bottom of it all; but if it is what then can all this Clamour mean, and what is the Effect of it; but to lay all the blame of Miscarriages upon the

Party now entrusted, in order to make the Nation uneasy with them, that a new Set of Men may come in their Places?—And if we should bring this down to Partics, what shall we say; to see a *High Flyer* do it, would be no News, we know what he means; but to see a *Whig* fly in the Face of the Government, and spread Discontents at the Set of Men now in the Administration, this is all hidden Mystery, a Wheel and no Wheel, 'tis a Monster in Politicks made up of Inconsistency, 'tis fighting with our selves, asking the true Madmen that wound themselves, and want Seace to feel the Smart.

MISCELLANEA.

ANY Man might have told without consulting, that when the *Review* was pinch'd in a Question, which so nearly touch'd his Principles, he would trifle and shuffl, and to avoid a direct Answer, cavil at Words.

In the *Review* N^o. 196, I propos'd two Questions to him upon the Subject-Matter, of his having us to esteem the *Scott* Bishops as united with the Church of England.

Who does he mean by the Church of England Bishops, when he speaks of the *Scott* Bishops uniting with them; the Bishops incumbent, and in Possession, install'd and named by the QUEEN, or the dispossess'd Bishops?

Is the present Church of England, as we call it, meaning that Part which is now under the Government of QUEEN ANNE, as Supreme Head, and which owns the Revolution Establishment; the only true Legal and rightly Establish'd Church of England; or is it a Schismatical usurpation, as by *Deane* and his Party is alleged?

Instead of an Answer, he cavils at the Word, *Supreme Head* of the Church, and says, the Church of England does not pray for the Queen as Supreme Head; that Queen Elizabeth gave it up, and none of our Kings have reassum'd it—Now, tho' this is not at all to the Question, yet I cannot but

note, how this poor freighted Casuist is driven to shift.

He says, the Church of England does not pretend to it; yet in the same Paper, he says, King Charles I. dy'd in the Defence of his Supremacy. This is first, at once contradicting himself, and then contradicting all the *Scott* of *Fancy* Orators, who say, he dy'd a Martyr for the Church of England; now if he dy'd in Defence of his Supremacy, and the Church of England does not pretend to own the Supremacy of the King, how did he dye for the Church?

Next he says, our Liturgy does not pray for the Queen as Supreme Head, and so the Church does not own her so— And yet he cannot but know, that we had an Oath of Supremacy, which was never abrogated but at the Revolution; and the *Dissenters* were persecuted for refusing it, for many Years in the Reign of King Charles II. And what was the Meaning of the constant Prayers for the King in the Church of England Pulpits for many Years, which I have heard, and millions more? *Over all Persons and in all Causes Ecclesiastical and Civil, here and immediately under Thee, and thy Christ, Supreme Head and Governour.*

But this by the Way, I will not trouble this Question with the Dispute, whether the *Scott* Bishops own the Queen as Supreme Head,

or what is or is not a Revolution Church of England. I'll grant all his frivolous Cavils, to come at the naked Question.

He would have the *Scots Bishops* reckon'd a Part of the Church of England, and united with our Bishops, *that is his Proposal.*

Now this is plain, the *Scots Bishops* do not own the QUEEN, we won't dispute the Word *Supream Head*: But do they own her at all, do they own her Majesty as Rightful Lawful QUEEN of England?

Secondly, The *Jacobite Clergy* either there or here do not own the present Church of England, I call'd it the *Revolution Church*, to distinguish between the deposed *Non-Jurant Members*, and that Body of the Church which owns the present Government, and are own'd by the present QUEEN to be the Church; it is easie to cavil at Terms, but the Distinction is plain to all; and let him put it in any Terms that will please him, I am content, let him answer the Question directly, *what he means by the Church of England, with whom the Scots Bishops should join?*—And that, if possible I may please him, I'll put the Question again, thus,

Is that Body of People in England professing themselves Protestants, and who possess the Ecclesiastical Revenues of the Church of England, who call themselves the Church of England, who own, and have sworn to Queen ANN, as Rightful Queen of England, and have abjur'd the Prince of Wales, and whom the Queen and present Parliament acknowledge to be the Church of England; is this the only true Legal, and rightly Establish'd Church of England, or is it not?

If this is not explicite, perhaps I may mend it next Time again. And let him raise all his Cavils, they shall meet with very fair Treatment.

Now I'll suppose a little, for that I hope may be allow'd me.

1. Suppose he means this, and owns this to be the Church of England; then pray let him tell us, how the *Scots Bishops*, who do not own her, can be united to her, and how they, who refuse Subjection to her Majesty, can be called a Part of this Church?

2. Suppose he means this Body, *usupra*, to be Schismatical, as we know is his profess'd Principle, then the *Scots Bishops* and the *English Non-Jurants Clergy* are by his Notion to be one Church. *Amen say I*, and let them go together, unite and consolidate as they please, let them but let our Schismatical Church of England alone in Peace, and our QUEEN and Succession alone, and we are satisfy'd.

Thus much I think may suffice to set the Matter to rights again, and let him give a fair Answer if he can; I see nothing fair in him, it is like his accepting an Offer of mine, to lend him Mr. *Lauder's Book*, and his furnishing me with the Books he has quoted in his *Rehearsals*, of which the *East* will make a pretty Tale.

He alledg'd, I had quoted a Book he could not hear of; I alledg'd, he had quoted several I could not get; I offer to lend him the Book I had quoted, and to pay for those he had quoted. He demands my Offer, and haughtily bids me carry it to such a Place for him. Never letting me know how I shall come at it again, or who will answer for the Book. And in Return, never offers to produce the railing Pamphlets he had quoted, tho' I promised to pay for them.

Now, First, if I must lend him a Book, it is as good Manners for him to send for it, as to command me to carry it into the Strand for him.

Secondly, I'll offer fair. The Book is left at the Printer's heretofore, Mr. *Mathews*, where any Person, he shall send that is known, and will answer for its Return, for I have not the Honour to know Mr. *Rehearsal*, shall have it, provided he will send to the said Mr. *Mathews*, for he that sells, always carries, the Pamphlets against the Church of Scotland, which he quotes in his Paper, upon Delivery of which, Mr. *Mathews* will pay ready Money for them at the usual Rate of Pamphlets; or if he will lend them to me, I'll send for them, where he shall direct, and give sufficient Satisfaction, that they shall be return'd.

O how fair an Antagonist is Mr. *Rehearsal*!

